

DOE Weekly Field Memo – April 7, 2010

From the Vermont Department of Education:

- **Vermont Social Studies Educator Network**
- **Two Secondary Schools Selected to Represent Vermont at Regional Conference on School Transformation**

From the Department of Health:

- **Grades 1-3 Oral Health Survey (Attachment)**

From the Vermont Principals Association:

- **Google Applications for Educational Leadership Workshop**
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Vermont Social Studies Educator Network

Audience: Social Studies Educators

Promoting collaboration, creating conversations and exchanging ideas to strengthen social studies education in Vermont, the social studies educator community in Vermont is moving toward more interactive communication by establishing its own social network. This summer, both the department Social Studies and Vermont Alliance for the Social Studies (VASS) listservs will transition to the Vermont Social Studies Educator Network. Members of this network can find and post current information, join groups designed to strengthen pedagogy (e.g., Social Studies and Literacy) as well as content knowledge (e.g., World History), and solicit feedback and opinions from their colleagues around the state using a Forum feature. Visit http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/pgm_curriculum/history.html#ning. Contact: Sigrid Lumbra, Social Studies Consultant, at (802) 828-0200 or sigrid.lumbra@state.vt.us

Two Secondary Schools Selected to Represent Vermont at Regional Conference on School Transformation

Audience: All

Two Vermont public secondary schools—Windham Regional Career Center and Milton High School—have been invited to represent their state at a regional conference on effective strategies for improving teaching and learning in the 21st century. The conference, *High School Redesign in Action*, will take place on April 9, 2010, and is sponsored by the New England Secondary School Consortium in collaboration with the departments of education for Vermont, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. The New England Secondary School Consortium is a regional educational partnership committed to fostering forward-thinking innovations in the design and delivery of public secondary education across the region. For more information visit <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/transformation.html#pr>. Contact: Carol Duley at (802) 828-3843 or carol.duley@state.vt.us

From the Department of Health:

Grades 1-3 Oral Health Survey (Attachment)

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, School Nurses

The Vermont Department of Health, in conjunction with the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, is happy to announce that Federal ARRA (Stimulus) funding has been allocated to conduct a children's oral health survey. Due to constraints in the timeline for Federal ARRA funds, all the survey activities will need to be completed by the end of the 2010 school year. After a statewide statistical sample is generated, selected schools will be given the opportunity to participate. As in previous surveys, children in grades one through three, with a signed consent from a parent or caregiver, will be given the option of having a free dental screening. See the [attached memo](#) for more information. Contact: Patrick Rowe, DDS, MPH, Director, Office of Oral Health, Vermont Department of Health, at (802) 881-7693 or prowe@vdh.state.vt.us

From the Vermont Principals Association:

Google Applications for Educational Leadership Workshop

Audience: Principals, Superintendents

Google Applications for Educational Leadership Workshop, May 11, 2010 at Vermont College, 8:30 a.m. - noon (lunch included). Learn from your colleagues in Vermont who have led the implementation of Google Applications in their district or school. Matt Dunne will open up the discussion followed by presenters who will share their experiences, practical knowledge, tools and resources. \$75 per person -- bring your laptop. Email Wendy Scott at wscott@vpaonline.org to register. Space is limited.

Contact: Wendy Scott at wscott@vpaonline.org

Weekly Field Memo is Online!

The DOE Weekly Field Memo is archived on the Department of Education Web site at http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/field_memo.html. Field Memos and the corresponding attachments are available for download. For Field Memo information three months or older, or for other questions, please contact Jill Remick, communications director, at (802) 828-3154 or jill.remick@state.vt.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

For the Department of Education Web site see: <http://education.vermont.gov/>. For upcoming events or professional development opportunities, see the DOE Calendar of Events located at: <http://education.vermont.gov/new/html/dept/calendar.html>.

Main Department Line: (802) 828-3135

NOTE: For comments or questions specific to the messages above, please contact the person listed. DO NOT reply to this message.

This Field Memo is posted weekly by the Department of Education to better organize our e-communications to the field. There may be times when separate messages from the department will still be sent.

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Department of Health
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Agency of Human Services

April 2, 2010

Dear Vermont School Principals of children in grades 1-3,

Ensuring and protecting the health of Vermont's school children is a top priority for the Vermont Department of Health. In the recent campaign to immunize Vermont's children against H1N1 infection, Schools proved to be an invaluable partner in this mission. Thank you for your participation, and congratulations on your efforts.

At this point, I would like to ask your assistance in a very important Oral Health Survey. The Vermont Department of Health, in conjunction with the Vermont Child Health Improvement Program, is happy to announce that Federal ARRA (Stimulus) funding has been allocated to conduct a children's oral health survey. The findings of this assessment will be used to evaluate the State's preventive oral health programs, determine the need for additional dental programs, and describe the oral health of Vermont's children. Previous surveys in 1994 and 2003 served as the basis for the development and funding of programs such as the school based Fluoride Mouth rinse Program and the State's initiative called, "The Dental Dozen".

Due to constraints in the timeline for Federal ARRA funds, all the survey activities will need to be completed by the end of the 2010 school year. After a statewide statistical sample is generated, selected schools will be given the opportunity to participate. As in previous surveys, children in grades one through three, with a signed consent from a parent or caregiver, will be given the option of having a free dental screening. The screening will take about one minute per child. No x-rays will be taken and no dental treatment will be provided. Each participating child will receive a free toothbrush along with a letter to the parent or guardian noting the results of the screening. Results will be provided to the school nurse about the oral health status of the children in your school. Your school will incur no cost for participating, and it is anticipated that there will be a small participation incentive in the form of funding for classroom supplies.

We would like to ask for your support and the support of your teachers to carry out this important assessment of our children's oral health needs. As you know, poor oral health has been related to decreased school performance, poor social relationship, and less success later in life. For this reason, we thank you in advance for making this contribution to the health and well-being of Vermont's children. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Patrick Rowe, DDS, MPH
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